United Nations S/2001/64

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 19 January 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter addressed to me dated 12 January 2001 from Lansana Kouyaté, Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 12 January 2001 from the Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States addressed to the Secretary-General

Economic Community of West African States intervention in Guinea-Liberia armed incursions

The leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have been following the deteriorating security situation along the borders of Guinea and Liberia with grave concern, recognizing the serious threat to the peace and security of the subregion, posed by the evolving events within those areas. Thus, the situation has been closely monitored and various mediation efforts initiated to arrest the situation.

Consequently, it was decided at the twenty-fourth summit of ECOWAS heads of State and Government, held in Bamako on 15 December 2000, that a force of about two battalions of ECOWAS troops be deployed along the border areas of Guinea and Liberia to help stop further armed incursions and restore peace in those areas.

As a result of the decision of the heads of State and Government, an emergency meeting of the ECOWAS Defence Security Commission was convened on 27 and 28 December 2000 to work out modalities for deployment. The meeting was ably assisted by your Special Representative in Sierra Leone and United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) military officers. Principal staff officers of ECOWAS troop-contributing countries, your Special Representative in Sierra Leone, officers of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNAMSIL officers also met at ECOWAS headquarters on 12 and 13 January 2001 to finalize arrangements.

In order to successfully discharge their mandate, there is every likelihood that the ECOWAS troops may need to employ strong rules of engagement at these border areas.

You are therefore kindly requested to use your good offices and to do all that is necessary to bring to the attention of the Security Council the possibility of the use of some measure of enforcement action by the ECOMOG troops in implementing their mandate.

Furthermore, we graciously count on your assistance in mobilizing international support for this mission to avert another humanitarian disaster.

(*Signed*) Lansana **Kouyatev**